

August 30, 2006

Chief, Policy and Compliance Division

Transmittal # 95 CHAMPVA Policy Manual

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**PUBLICATIONS AND TRANSMITTAL CHANGE
FOR THE CHAMPVA PM (POLICY MANUAL)**

Explanation of the changes and related index updates to the CHAMPVA PM are in the following summary.

Transmittal changes may include removal of supplemental material previously noted in the body of the policy or the transmittal memorandum.

MTOC (Master Table of Contents)

- Reformatted.

Chapter 2, Section 4.9, CARDIAC REHABILITATION.

- Reformats existing policy.
- Under Policy removes reference to the “not all inclusive the listing” of cardiac events.

Chapter 2, Section 12.1, WELL-CHILD CARE.

- Amends Procedure Codes.
- Under Policy Considerations removes list of specific procedures that are covered under the well-child program as the services are considered preventive and are found within the *Preventive Services* policy; removes the Centers for Disease Control listing of recommended immunization injections as this information is found within the *Immunization Injections* policy.

Chapter 2, Section 17.1, DME (DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT) AND SUPPLIES.

- Under Definitions removes listing of specific equipment and adds DME that was previously listed under Policy.
- Under Policy adjusts dollar ceiling for DME from \$300 to \$2000.
- Under Exclusions adds spectacles, eyeglasses, contact lenses or other optical devices; hearing aids and other communication devices; exercise equipment, spas, whirlpools, hot tubs, swimming pools.

Chapter 2, Section 17.25, V.A.C.® (VACUUM-ASSISTED CLOSURE DEVICE)

- Amends Procedure Codes.
- Under Description removes reference to four V.A.C.® Systems.

Chapter 2, Section 19.1, MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM.

- Under Exclusions adds artificial intervertebral disc replacement for degenerative disc disease and IDET (Intradiscal Electrothermal Therapy) for chronic discogenic pain.

Chapter 2, Section 29.2, ASSISTANT SURGEONS.

- Under Policy adds that the assistant surgeon must be involved in the actual performance of the procedure, not simply in other, ancillary services. Since an assistant would be occupied during the surgical procedure they would not be available to perform (and thus, could not bill for) another surgical procedure during the same time period.
- Removes Exceptions as language was not considered relevant in determining the need for an assistant surgeon.

Chapter 2, Section 29.15, SURGERY FOR MORBID OBESITY.

- Under Exclusions adds clarifying CPT codes for biliopancreatic bypass and for partial biliopancreatic bypass (with or without duodenal switch); and laparoscopy, surgical gastric restrictive procedure with gastric bypass and small intestine reconstruction to limit absorption.

Chapter 3, Section 1.1, CLAIMS PROCESSING – GENERAL.

- Under Policy removes timely filing criteria.

Chapter 3, Section 1.2, CLAIMS PROCESSING – FOREIGN

- Removes EXCEPTIONS and timely filing criteria.

Code Index. Amends index to add and delete codes referenced in this transmittal.

Subject Index. Amends index to add and delete changes in this transmittal.

Lisa Brown
Chief, Policy and Compliance

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